

VZCZCXRO3055  
PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH  
DE RUEHKO #0137 0230201  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 230201Z JAN 09  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0188  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY  
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 1982  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 4328  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 9877  
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 2541  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 5770  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7339  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2689  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3367  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3387  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 000137

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,  
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;  
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;  
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;  
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;  
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - EXECUTIVE ORDER TO  
CLOSE GUANTANAMO

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Asahi gave front-page play to  
Secretary of State Clinton's first day on the job at  
the State Department on Thursday.

¶2. "President Obama Orders Closing of Guantanamo" The  
liberal Mainichi wrote from Washington (1/23):  
"President Obama ordered on Thursday the closing of the  
detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base  
within a year. The President will seek to carry out his  
campaign pledge and regain international confidence in  
the U.S. by promptly closing the camp, which is deemed  
a 'negative legacy' of the previous administration."

¶3. "President Obama Begins to Restore 'Ethical Dignity'  
of U.S." The moderate Yomiuri's Washington  
correspondent wrote (1/23): "The Presidential order on  
Thursday demonstrated the Obama administration's move  
to restore the 'ethical dignity' of the U.S. However,  
many difficult issues lie ahead in connection with the  
closure of Guantanamo, such as the search for nations  
to accept the detainees."

¶4. "President Signs Order to Close Guantanamo" A  
Washington correspondent of the business-oriented  
Nikkei reported (1/23): "The President signed an  
executive order to close Guantanamo within one year. He  
showed his efforts to the nation and the world to carry  
out his campaign pledge and make a policy change from  
the Bush administration. However, there are major  
challenges ahead, such as securing alternate facilities  
to detain terror suspects."

¶5. "Clear Departure from Bush Diplomacy" A  
correspondent reported from Washington in the liberal

Tokyo Shimbun wrote (1/23): "... The President demonstrated his position of departing from the Bush diplomacy by developing his own diplomatic and security policies. Supporters of the 'change' advocated by President Obama will be disappointed, however, if the President fails to carry out his campaign pledge to pull out American troops from Iraq within 16 months. The executive order set a one-year deadline for the closure. There is no clear prospect for the transfer of the 250 detainees at the camp. Despite his 'hasty' decision, the closure will not be easy, as many nations are hesitant to accept the detainees out of concern for public security and the related financial burden."

ZUMWALT